



## **FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

### **DIVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL**

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*County Executive*

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## **New Adoption Application Policy**

Change is coming to the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center. Starting February 1, 2017 we will be implementing a new adoption application policy. While we will still be taking two applications for every animal, it will no longer be a first come, first served process. Our staff will select the best fit for each animal similar to our existing "Puppy Process." It is our hope that this new process will help us fulfill our mission to place pets into safe and loving environments while reducing the number of animals returned to the shelter.

Take Rocco for example. Rocco is a 13-year-old cat who requires a special diet and has a history of being fearful of small children. If we were to receive an application from a family of five with three children ages three, five, and eight and a second application from a family familiar with special dietary needs of older pets and a quieter home environment, that second application would be the best placement for Rocco.

Just because an application was not chosen for one animal, it does not mean that that applicant is ineligible to adopt from Frederick County Animal Control. If that same family of five that was interested in Rocco came back and put in an application for another animal they may be selected as long as they were approved and an appropriate fit for that pet.

If we receive two applications for an animal and both are approved, the first applicant will be chosen to adopt the animal.

Our application process will still take 2-5 days to complete and we will not necessarily wait for animals to receive second applications. If the first application is approved and a good fit for the animal we will move forward. If the first and only application is not a good placement for a specific animal, we reserve the right to reject the application as we remain committed to our shelter animals in placing them in the best situation possible.

Our "Puppy Process" remains the same. We will accept up to four applications for each of these animals and select the best fit.

Applicants who are chosen to adopt will receive a phone call to schedule an adoption interview. Applicants who are not chosen will receive an email.

We look forward to moving forward with this new process in a continuing effort to best serve our shelter animals, potential adopters, and the citizens of Frederick County.